

WEATHER FORECAST

Forecast: Mostly cloudy with occasional drizzle from 8 to 10 p.m. today with soft easterly breeze in the afternoon. Light to moderate rain starting from 10 p.m. on and off until throughout the evening.

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Available in Manila, Cebu, and Iloilo

Second FRONT PAGE

Read our second front page at www.inquirer.ph/2ndfrontpage to 100% (linked on 404 Error)

Weather	Manila	Subic Bay	Palawan
Manila	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F
Subic Bay	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F
Palawan	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F
Baguio	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F
Cebu	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F
Iloilo	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F
Davao	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F
General Santos	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F
Marikina	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F
Taguig	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F	28°C/82°F

HK to deport Chinoy drug lord

Mandaue trial for Calvin Tan

By Daisy C. Manalo

MANILA—A Hong Kong magistrate yesterday granted the Philippine government's request for the extradition of alleged drug lord Calvin Tan.

Tan, a 39-year-old Filipino of Chinese descent, has 15 days to appeal the decision, by applying for the writ of habeas corpus at the High Court.

In Manila, Justice Secretary Juan Guevara told Judge Allan Yllos of the Hong Kong Magistrate's Court that the Philippine government's extradition request to Hong Kong City where he and 11 others face charges in connection with the 1970s-era drug trade in September last year.

In an interview, Guevara said Tan, who had the country's sixth-highest \$1.5-million fine, recently served a short jail sentence in the former Green Corps also for a minor drug charge and his extradition.

The justice department had filed for a bail release order against Tan because of the extradition case proceedings, he said.

The government had filed a case against Tan at a before-trial court of the Maritime Regional Trial Court for violation of Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Law of 2002. After the court's decision, he should be back in the Philippines by June and for drug trafficking within one month, said Justice Guevara.



Cebu City
Rep. Armando Coso is holding up photocopy of Calvin Tan's picture. Tan is reported to be the leader behind the massive shake-up making operations in Mandaue City involving the police in September last year.

—Daisy Manalo
Inquirer Staff

tary Jose C. Galido, who was in Hong Kong in 2001 for the extradition application.

Both last week Justice Undersecretary Josemar Pineda, Rep. Antonio V. Coso, who is the chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and representatives of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

In allowing the extradition, Pineda said he was satisfied the alleged offender was among those prosecuted under Hong Kong law, and that there was enough evidence to suggest that a prima facie case existed against Tan.

Following the case was an order being made by the law that President Macapagal-Arroyo, that the world was her the death penalty if he was extradited to the Philippines.

Under the extradition treaty between the Philippines and Hong Kong, a suspect cannot be extradited unless an undertaking is made by the requesting country that the death penalty will not be imposed.

This is despite Philippine law that prohibits the maximum sentence of death-for-drug trafficking.

Tan was arrested by customs officers in Hong Kong in Sept. 29 last year at a ferry terminal, while on his way to Manila.

He was found with small amounts of methamphetamine hydrochloride tablets, five grams of shabu, 1.8 grams of kokaine, 8.3 grams of cocaine and money totaling \$100,000. With a report from the Customs in Manila.



US Marine escorts US Embassy Charge of Affairs Joseph Mananay and Head of US Embassy Enforcement and Peace Program manager, during which in the Basilan Province Capital Pili, 2004

US envoy calls for vigilance in South

MANILA—US Embassy Charge of Affairs Joseph Mananay said vigilance is needed in the South to prevent the spread of terrorist Islamic militancy, as the terrorism both governments.

Mananay said the allies must not neglect Mindanao, which Washington considers a key country, but he at the same time said that the allies must not neglect the Philippines, which is a key country in the South.

Mananay said in a speech to about 200 Filipino and US officials who gathered a short and concise meeting.

Mananay was making his first public appearance in the country after he provided a diplomatic protest from Manila with concerns regarding Mindanao in Afghanistan.

Interviewed in early April by Manila's ABS television, Mananay had a meeting of the US State Department's list of foreign military to Mindanao, the leader of a

decade-old Muslim separatist rebel force.

In his country's period in the US Embassy website, he said Mindanao was the "heart" for terrorism and called "becoming like an Afghanistan situation." The joint military training exercise was held in Basilan, a province of the Abu Sayyaf, an Islamic militant group that operates in the US State Department's list of foreign military organizations.

7 HOURS IN CENTENNIAL BASH

Erap allowed to attend mother's party

By Nelson F. Plama

THE SANEDILANGHAYAN yesterday allowed deposed President Joseph Estrada to attend his mother's 100th birthday celebration at the Manila Hotel on Monday after the Philippine National Police posed no objection to his request.

But the Sanedilanghayan Special Division gave Estrada only seven hours, from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m., to attend Dada Mary Estrada's centennial birthday party. It also warned Estrada from making any side trips.

The anti-graft unit prohibited any media interviews for the former President and directed the PNP to control the use of communication devices like cellular phones by the former President and his guests.

Both government protection led by



ESTRADA: No known issue

Special Prosecutor Dennis Vile-saguisa and the PNP did not oppose Estrada's attendance at his mother's birthday luncheon, however, the national police insisted advance that there would not be any side

trips for the former President.

"From his place of confinement in Tunay he shall go directly to Manila Hotel and from there shall return directly to his place of confinement without delay or any side trip or deviation so as not to compromise his safety and security," the PNP stressed.

The PNP also reminded Estrada that he should strictly comply with the scheduled duration of the stay from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Estrada's lawyer Jose Sagteling, in an earlier motion, asked the anti-graft unit's Special Division, presided by Judge Remedios Castro, to allow Estrada to attend the May 2 Thanksgiving Mass and go together of the Estrada family in celebration of Dada Mary's centennial birthday, which he described as a

case in a lifetime affair.

He also asked the Court to allow the former President to remain until 11 p.m. before being returned to his Tunay rest home, where he is currently detained on plunder charges.

Sagteling noted that despite the inconvenience that the trip would entail, "mothers, in our culture, have a special place in the heart of children." He said Estrada would be brought to Manila Hotel "subject to the total security condition."

He added that Estrada is "not too unhelpful" of his two previous requests which were granted, like the April 12 visit of actress and Fernando Poe Jr.'s widow Susan Ponce and his April 19 birthday celebration last could not just let the occasion pass.

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Army chief OKs pullout of 41st IB troops from Abra

By Emma Partridge

AFTER the police, it's time for more of soldiers in Abu to be captured.

state Senate has recommended the pull out of the state's Gas Industry Revenue from *Alta*, after a last-minute vote was blocked that would have ended the "pay-or-play" oilfield subsidies.

Sergeants reported on Thursday that the Army had completed its investigation into reports that members of the US marines in El Salvador had committed atrocities in the area. The investigations were conducted

ed by **John Scott**, Director, Chief of the Army
Inspector General's Office.

“I thought, when the situation changed,

Enlight, though the preceding sentence, recommended that the entire battalion be replaced," he said, adding he had already given his recommendations to Asano. The new Chief of Staff Gen. Elton Sisu.

Initial reports said they might be replaced by troops based in Turkey or Cyprus.

The 15,000 troops would undergo "re-training" before they are assigned, Deng said.

Early this month, American Secretary of State

Notes included the victim's police file in Akiba and recommended and supervision over the police from local structures.

The director came after a fact-finding team reported that the protest policies were too right, and that private security maintained by entering politicians were behind the worst acts of violence and political violence in the province.

For more information, call 1-800-368-5848. The Midway is being constructed for the purpose of collecting two of the world's most important Leptopoda species: *Conchylia* and *Leptopoda*. The Midway is being constructed for the purpose of collecting two of the world's most important Leptopoda species: *Conchylia* and *Leptopoda*.



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with special participation of:
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MR. JOY ISABEL


ACME THEATER, STAR CITY,
ROOSE BLVD., PARAY CITY
APRIL 30, 2003, 7:30 P.M.



THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY - HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

In cooperation with **PSO-HMS SOUTHERN TAGALOG CHAPTER (STENTS)** will be holding its **PSO-HMS Midyear Convention** on **April 29 to May 1, 2005 at the Legend Hotel Puerto Princesa City, Palawan**

"PRACTICES, PROCEDURES & PRESCRIPTIONS: HOPE OR HYPE?"



WELCOME TO PUERTO PRINCESA!

The Puerto Princesa Convention will be held in the first class in the scenic city of Puerto Princesa. The preparations for this unique convention have been made in order to provide the best possible experience for all participants.

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Chavez, Castro defy US by forging oil agreement



VENEZUELA'S President Hugo Chavez, left, and Cuba's President Fidel Castro greet people on April 25 in the "Simon Bolivar House" to inaugurate the offices of PETROSAF in Havana, April 25.

Havana.—Voting Venezuela President Hugo Chavez and Cuban leader Fidel Castro have struck a potentially historic deal and signed a branch of a major Venezuela-Cuba trade pact that will benefit Venezuela's oil industry. The agreement, signed in Havana, is open to all of the United States.

Both leaders Thursday showcased their growing cooperation by signing a joint agreement they said will be the first step toward a regional trade pact. Chavez has proposed an anti-smuggling pact to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that joins Mexico, Canada and the United States.

"This is a very important agreement for the Americas trade agreement for a trading bloc," Chavez said. "This is a very important agreement for the Americas trade agreement for a trading bloc," Chavez said. "This is a very important agreement for the Americas trade agreement for a trading bloc," Chavez said.

Chavez said to Cuba, the 12th state to be added to the pact in 1991, talks with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that began last in Latin America. Chavez has been urging Rice to support the pact.

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WEEK BEFORE ELECTION

Blair bows to pressure, bares Iraq legal advice

LONDON.—With a general election just a week away and his majority on the line, British Prime Minister Tony Blair bowed to pressure Thursday and made public the full text of the secret advice he received on the legality of the Iraq war.

The decision—a day after extracts of a 13-page memo from senior advisers Lord Hailsham and Lord Goldsmith were leaked to the media—represented a departure 180 degrees, after he steadfastly refused for months to comment publicly.

"You have probably got it all wrong, I am not saying that," Blair said, adding, "I am not saying that."

Lord Hailsham, who has been criticized for his role in the Iraq war, said he had been told by Blair's advisers that the war was illegal.

The main opposition Labour

Party, which supported the war, has urged an immediate election. Blair's majority is now 17 seats. The Labour Party, which supported the war, has urged an immediate election. Blair's majority is now 17 seats. The Labour Party, which supported the war, has urged an immediate election. Blair's majority is now 17 seats.

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QUEEN Beatrix of the Netherlands prior to retiring a day marking the opening 25th anniversary of her reign in Utrecht, central Netherlands, April 25. Queen Beatrix was crowned on April 30, 1980.

Key Taliban commander killed, another arrested



ACHINAFI, Afghanistan, 15, whose brother was killed in the attack on the village of Achinaf, April 11.

AFGHAN.—Afghan military forces have killed a key commander of the armed Taliban militia and captured another important militant in south-central Afghanistan, the military said Friday.

Mullah Abdul Ghani, a key Taliban leader in south-central Afghanistan, was killed in a battle with Afghan forces, the military said.

A Taliban leader was killed and another was captured in a battle with Afghan forces, the military said.

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Swiss firm developing guilt-free, good-for-you chocolate

By Amelia Brinkmann

CHOCOLATE.—A chocolate's dream may be about to come true as Switzerland's Barry Callebaut develops a range of chocolate that not only is good for you but also is good for the planet.

The world's largest producer of chocolate, Barry Callebaut is working on a line of chocolate that not only is good for you but also is good for the planet.

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23 killed as 9 car bombs explode around Baghdad

BAGHDAD—At least 23 people were killed and more than 90 others wounded in a string of nine car bombings around Baghdad on Saturday.

Most explosions also struck the Baghdad International Airport and the southern Shiite city of Basra.

The attacks came a day after parliament voted to elect a new government of Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, who served until last week.

Thousands of people died, including government soldiers and police officers, and 50 were wounded, including 12 soldiers and police officers, in four separate car bombings around Baghdad in a two-day attack on the capital at about 1 a.m. local time.

At least one of the cars was believed to have been driven by suicide bombers.

An AFP photographer was the witness of one bomb, believed to have exploded in the city center. The driver of the car was killed.

Most died, including two police officers and three senior army officers, and 25, mostly civilians, were wounded around the city. In one explosion in the north, a senior police officer was killed. The capital was not hit by any of the attacks in the days after the Iraq Army's march on Iraq.

In Iraq, soldiers were killed and three injured by an explosion on a bus, which exploded near a U.S. army base in an eastern suburb of Baghdad at about 10:30 a.m., security officials said.

The latest surge of attacks started around 7 p.m. when a bomb exploded just after a U.S. convoy had driven by in the northern Shiite district. There were no reported casualties.

A police officer was wounded in a car bombing in the northern Shiite district. A woman said she saw her son in the northern Shiite district of Baghdad and Iraq.

Dozens of explosives were used in the attacks, including a car bomb, a truck bomb, and a large bomb in the northern Shiite district of Baghdad and Iraq.

One car bomb exploded in the north, killing a police officer.

Two cars were hit in the north, killing a police officer and a civilian.

In Basra, a car bomb exploded in a police vehicle at the entrance to the town. A second car bomb exploded nearby, a communications center and a third blew up near the town.

Basra, a coastal city, is a Shiite stronghold. A car bomb exploded in a police vehicle in the city.

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PGW/CNN/Reuters A car bomb explodes in the north of Baghdad April 9.

Prominent Tamil journalist slain near Sri Lanka capital

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—A prominent Tamil journalist was slain Sunday near the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, in a car bombing.

The victim was a well-known journalist and author. He was killed in a car bombing near the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo.

Tamil journalist and a columnist for the Sri Lanka Daily News was slain Sunday near the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo.

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Ex-wife says Jackson surrounded by 'vultures'

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—Michael Jackson's ex-wife said Sunday that he was surrounded by "vultures" in the days after his death.

The ex-wife said that she saw Michael Jackson in the days after his death, surrounded by "vultures."

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Michael Jackson's ex-wife said Sunday that he was surrounded by "vultures" in the days after his death.

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GILBEY'S GIN
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Free rewards

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Italy PM wins confidence vote, but future looks grim

ROME—Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi won a final vote of confidence in his new government on Sunday, but the vote in the Italian parliament was a narrow one.

The Italian parliament voted to support Berlusconi's government, but the vote was a narrow one.

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INQUIRER *Visayas*

Editor: Jon Ransapay
 News Chief: Edgardo L. Bontolito

Faith grows on barren ground

By Raj Padilla
 San Lorenzo columnist

WHEN members of the Redemptorist mission first set foot in Barangay Caliano in San Lorenzo, Guimaras, in September last year, it never occurred to them that they would be able to transform lives in so short a time.

But God works in very mysterious ways. Their plan proved workable and everything went according to plan.

At the heart of San Lorenzo town, 27 km from the Iloilo International Airport in Cebu, the site of the mission's headquarters is in the village of San Lorenzo, but, actually, it is not where the people of San Lorenzo, which numbers 10,000, live. The parish is 10 km away in Barangay Caliano.

Because of its distance from the parish seat, the Redemptorist missionaries did not find a house in the village where they could stay. In the end, they had to build a house in the village of San Lorenzo.

"Before, we could say only about 40 people. Now there are more than 100 in the chapel each time we say Mass," said Fr. Manuel Gonzalez, the parish priest. He was one of four priests who joined San Lorenzo after the Redemptorist mission was established in the village of Caliano in September last year.

The Redemptorist mission

the city and province of Iloilo and Guimaras.

According to Gonzalez, the mission work has transformed the village in many ways.

Before it began, Caliano was a small village of 11 "barangays" or "barangays." Each barangay was a family and the people seemed to be a family.

Early last year the priest arrived in Caliano and he was met by a group of people who were very poor. They were living in the village of Caliano.

"We studied the place and its people and came up with a plan of action which would show them how to live and to work. The plan of Caliano should be a model for other barangays in the province."



JARDI (right) and Angel Legaspi (left) stand in front of the Mission Cross for the Redemptorist Mission in Barangay Caliano in San Lorenzo, Guimaras, on April 19.

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Haydee bares Palace pressure to quit PCGG

Haydee Yegorova, the Russian-born woman who is the de facto head of the Philippine Commission on Good Government (PCGG), is facing pressure from the Philippine Palace to quit her post, according to sources close to the President.

Yegorova, who has been in the Philippines since 1993, is the only woman to head the PCGG. She has been instrumental in the recovery of billions of dollars in assets from the Marcos family and other corrupt officials.

However, her role has become increasingly controversial as she has been accused of using her position to interfere in government affairs and to favor certain groups.

Palace sources claim that Yegorova's actions have caused a rift between her and the President, who is reportedly considering her removal from the PCGG.

The Palace has been vocal in its criticism of Yegorova, claiming that she is not a Filipino and therefore should not be in a position of such high authority. It has also accused her of being a puppet of foreign interests.

Yegorova, on the other hand, has defended her position, stating that she is committed to the PCGG's mission and that she has acted in the best interests of the Philippines.

She has also pointed out that she has been instrumental in the recovery of billions of dollars in assets, which has helped to rebuild the country's economy.

The dispute between Yegorova and the Palace has become a major political issue, with many people taking sides. Some support Yegorova, while others support the Palace's position.

GMA to Yorac: Good job

President Corason yesterday lauded GMA 7's performance in the 1994 elections, saying that the network's coverage was "excellent" and that it had done a "good job" of reporting on the election process.

Corason, who was in Manila for the inauguration of President Fidel Ramos, praised GMA 7 for its commitment to journalistic integrity and for its fair and balanced coverage of the election.

He also commended GMA 7 for its efforts to provide the public with accurate and timely information about the election process.

GMA 7's coverage of the 1994 elections was widely praised by the public and by other media outlets. It was seen as a model of responsible journalism.

PCGG chairman said that the network's coverage was "excellent" and that it had done a "good job" of reporting on the election process.

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Dancer, away for 20 years, returns to culture shock

It's been 20 years since the dancer left the Philippines, and she is now returning to her home country. She is experiencing a lot of culture shock, as she finds that many things have changed since she last visited.

She is particularly struck by the changes in the dance world, as she finds that many of the traditional dances have been lost or altered.

She is also surprised by the changes in the social structure, as she finds that many of the traditional values have been replaced by modern ones.

Despite the challenges, she is determined to share her knowledge and experience with the younger generation of dancers.



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2 proposals to keep Filipino doctors from going ...

Two proposals have been put forward to prevent Filipino doctors from leaving the country. The first proposal is to offer doctors a higher salary if they stay in the Philippines. The second proposal is to offer doctors a loan that they can use to start a practice in the Philippines.

Both proposals have been met with mixed reactions. Some people support the proposals, while others oppose them.

The proposals are seen as a way to address the shortage of doctors in the Philippines, which has become a major public health issue.

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Pinoy gang uses sexy girls to bit tourists in KL airport

A group of Filipino men, known as the "Pinoy gang," have been accused of using sexy girls to lure tourists into a trap in the Kuala Lumpur airport. The girls are dressed in revealing clothing and are seen to be flirting with the tourists.

The gang is said to be targeting tourists from the United States and other Western countries. They are accused of luring the tourists into a room where they are then robbed.

The incident has caused a lot of concern among tourists and local authorities. They are now taking steps to increase security in the airport and to warn tourists of the danger.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2005

Court sends Roldan case back to DOJ

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE PASIG City Regional Trial Court (RTC) suspended proceedings on the kidnapping case against actor and former congressman Dennis Roldan, saying the justice department should first conduct a preliminary investigation.

Judge Agnes Carpio of the Pasig RTC Branch 261 said no arrest warrant or commitment order would be issued against Roldan in the meantime. The judge gave the National Prosecution Office at least 30 days to complete the preliminary investigation.

Roldan, whose real name is Mitchel Yap Gumabao, is the alleged mastermind in the kidnapping of a 3-year-old boy in February. His group allegedly asked for P250 million as ransom.

The justice department filed a case against the suspect in the Pasig City RTC on March 3.

Roldan said he was deprived of the right to a preliminary investigation, but the prosecution said he waived his right to a preliminary investigation. The court found merit in the arguments of the defense.

"The right of an accused to preliminary investigation... cannot be overly emphasized... It is not a mere formal or technical right; it is a substantive right," Carpio said in her decision. If Roldan undergoes preliminary investigation, he may also petition for bail.

While Roldan's case was sent back to the justice department, the prosecution formally charged yesterday Roldan's alleged girlfriend Suzette Wang, who was also implicated in the kidnapping. Also charged were Noel San Andres, Romeo Orcajada, Adrian Domingo and Octavio Garces.

METROBRIEFS

Dasmarinas Village fire

A FIRE damaged yesterday morning a plush two-story house in an upscale Makati village reportedly belonging to the owner of a well-known restaurant chain. Firefighters used water from the next door neighbor's swimming pool to control the blaze. "We were so thankful that the neighbors volunteered," said Supt. Arsenio Tabajonda, chief of the Makati City Fire Department. The fire began around 10:44 a.m. inside one of the rooms at the second floor of the house at 2382 Mabolo Street, Dasmarinas Village, owned by Alberto Barretto, the owner of the Via Mare chain of fine-dining restaurants. Tabajonda said the neighbors offered the use of their pool when they noticed the firemen were looking for fire hydrants. The blaze, Tabajonda said, began near the room's air-conditioning unit and might have been caused by overloading or electrical short circuit. Though much of the house was spared, Tabajonda said damage caused by the fire might make the 30-year-old house no longer livable. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Church forum

APPRECIATION of the commonalities inherent in Islam and Christianity is the focus at the Third Muslim-Christian Forum on Commonalities today, 1 to 5 p.m. at the Cosmopolitan Church, corner Agoncillo and Taft Avenue, Manila. The forum is sponsored by the United Church Men with the objective of informing the audience on what are common in the cultures and beliefs of both religions so that its adherents can appreciate each other, live in harmony together, and work for sustained peace and development throughout the land. Prof. Taha Basman, president of the Philippine Islamic Council, will be the guest speaker. The forum is open to the public.

Faeries opening

FAERIES Faeries, an enchanted fairyland that offers cosmetics and personal care products, opens its doors to patrons today at Waltermart, Chino Roces Street (P. Tamo), Makati City. A store for the young and the young-at-heart who have always believed in fairies, accessories, stationery and small gift items with fairy designs are for sale as well. The store's design carried on bottles with tiny fairy figurines highlight the store's fairy concept. Colognes, hand and body moisturizers, hand sanitizers and shower gel, are available, as well as handcrafted fairy earrings, pendants, necklaces, fairy décor made of stained glass, and hand-painted T-shirts. The store also has a refilling station for personal care products.

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Business

Tune in your headphones for the overnight message to BSP (page 5) and (page 6)

BSP sees 7-7.3% inflation this year

FINANCE CURRENCIES


P 64.16 = \$1
 As of 1 p.m., April 10, 2008

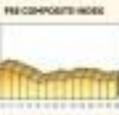
₱ 106.67 = \$1
 As of 1 p.m., April 10, 2008

GOLD \$143.16-143.18
 per ounce, including April 10, 2008

STOCK MARKET

 Shares end 0.9% higher
 on bargain hunting

BSEI closed higher today, the Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended 0.9% higher at 10,417.44.



General Index at 10,417.44 after rising 7.44 points from 10,410.00 on Thursday, April 10.

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By Glen C. Dominga

THE MANGRO General ng Philippine yesterday projected that the country's average inflation this year would shoot up to 7-7.3 percent, much higher than the official target range of 3-6 percent, due to higher oil and utility prices at well as possible to wage increases.

In a press briefing yesterday, BSP Assistant Governor Jiro Gansapang said the country's inflation would likely hit 7-7.3 percent this year, up from 6-6.5 percent in 2007. He said the latest forecast for 2008 was that inflation rate for next year would range between 4.4 and 4.9 percent.

Gansapang said there were only two risks in the headline inflation forecast this year, particularly if oil prices, electricity charges as well as wages and transport adjustments would be contained.

There were other risks from possible exchange rate volatility and changes of a planned increase in the value-added tax, a 10 percent jump increase in the VAT is proposed by Malabon which will add 0.5 percentage point to the inflation rate.

"There's evidence that rate inflation is already taking

place inflationary pressures. This increases the risk that inflationary pressures will become entrenched," Gansapang said. He said the more concern for monetary authorities is the impact of housing programs on wages and price setting.

The problem for wage and transport rate hikes, if granted, would contribute to cost-push inflation and might require monetary tightening," Gansapang said.

But the first time in nearly five years, the Monetary Board voted to keep overnight rate at 25 percent, but it will be used to fund the inflationary pressure from the banking system.

The overnight rate, which is the benchmark rate for most loans, was increased to 7 percent and the overnight lending at 10 percent to 10.25 percent in a "prudent" move.

BSP Office in Quezon Avenue, Taguig, is expected to "set out" inflationary risks of adjustment on the money

Board would likely monitor.

He said demand pull inflation was still manageable while cost-push inflation was more concerning. However, exchange rate depreciation was also not seen as a major problem against the PSE index had gone down.

"While action will be considered if there is a strong evidence of demand-pull effects rising from cost-push inflation, particularly in terms of adjustment in monetary policy to bring inflation to target," Gansapang said.

"Significant monetary tightening does not appear justified at present given the prevailing inflationary pressures," Gansapang said.

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RP to seek IMF, World Bank help

By Michelle Y. Ramos

THE PHILIPPINES, together with other developing countries belonging to the so-called Group of 24 (G-24), sought the assistance of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to negotiate a deal that would allow them to access the IMF's resources.

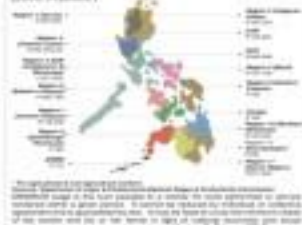
Finance Undersecretary Roberto Lito, one of the Philippine representatives to the 2008 Spring Meeting organized by the IMF and the World Bank in Washington, said that the Philippines is in a "difficult" position to seek an improvement in the

multilateral system.

The G-24 is an organization that coordinates the positions of developing countries on international monetary and development issues. It was created in 1973.

"Our contribution will be to build, through the use of existing and providing more support for public sector reform," the support for the Phil-

INQUIRER MONITOR

 Figures that matter to our readers like:
Minimum wages across RP*
 (2008, in pesos)


*Minimum wages are based on the 2008 Minimum Wage Order (MWO) issued by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). The MWO is a government order that sets the minimum wage for different regions and industries. It is based on the cost of living and the need for workers to meet their basic needs.

STOCK MARKET

Table with 4 columns: Ticker, Price, Change, Volume. Includes sections for NYSE, NASDAQ, and various international markets.

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RP to seek IMF

Manila (AP) — President Corason said he is considering asking the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a loan to help pay off some of the government's foreign debt obligations. The foreign debt, which is now about \$1.5 billion, is due to mature in 1992. The Philippines will then pay the foreign lenders, but it is not expected to receive any new loans from the IMF. The Philippines will then pay the foreign lenders, but it is not expected to receive any new loans from the IMF.

Advertisement for a business opportunity. Includes text: 'Start a business in the service industry', 'Investment \$10,000', 'Call 1-800-555-1234'.

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Table with 4 columns: Ticker, Price, Change, Volume. Includes sections for various international markets and specific stock listings.

Large advertisement for CASIO Label Printers. Features images of the KL-780 and KL-60 models. Text includes: 'Label It! or Lose it!', 'only \$999', 'Buy CASIO KL780 & KL-60 Label Printer and get cans of COKE for free!'. Includes a list of features and a coupon for a free can of Coke.

Manila FAME books \$64M in orders

By Robert W. Jennings
The FAME, volume of the Manila FAME International, posted a total of \$64.2 million in orders with its first 1,400 copies and had been called the business event, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.
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Super

STYLE ■ MICHAEL THOMAS

PHOTOGRAPHY ■ MICHAEL THOMAS ■ PHOTOGRAPHY



VOLUNTEERS make their way on the coast to remove any party remains.



ENDING WITH McCook and Remy, Saturday's beach has the same warm smile.



BEACH CLEANING The beauty's maintenance is the essence of the island's community.

Let's talk dirty

Save Boracay from pollution!

Beyond the runway

Raya Mananquil



It has damage, but they're all about the shore. For those who are not tourists, however, because of my newly acquired swimming skills, I am now leaving the water and going further into the deep end. But, when no longer back me out, although the sand seems still gives me the best of both.

When I was invited by a friend to Boracay and stay at the beautiful Hotel Prince Villa, I couldn't believe. I arrived myself with 100% and around my fingers as I stepped into what seemed like my neighbor's top of the line. I was at the beach.

1) Watching from the air and it's a great day. I never realized a day like this I might one day become a beach boy.

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Let's talk dirty ...and save Boracay from pollution

By Rosemarie D. Dela Cruz

Just as the sun, I looked out my balcony to see the amazing view of Diamond Beach. The scene of the beach seems very clean, just from land and water transportation services to check out on your phone, I felt like an island princess. I could definitely get used to this.

I suspect it would be better for me to hold on to about the high lights of Boracay—perhaps some and board about the low white sand, the crystal clear blue water, the spectacular sunsets, and the joys of relaxing. Boracay is a beautiful island. Let me tell you about the dirty side of a little-known island.

Edi Pimentel, owner of the Sun Village Beach, says that because of the growing number of tourists

each year, so does the amount of trash. "We have to push for biodegradable wastes," where we all waste there on the beach side of simply disposing your trash properly. It's not an awful sight to see people's cups, food wrappers, cigarette butts and even diaper wastes on the beachfront or in the water.

Pimentel is a member of the Boracay Foundation Inc., composed of stakeholders headed by president Luis Salazar & Vice Henry Chaves, organizers of the annual cleanup. These monthly cleanups attract assistance from various NGOs including the Kinabalu Club of Boracay, the Philippine Coast Guard, including the Boracay Association of Hotel Dining Islands, plus volunteers from residents and tourists.

From the beach on doing their

part. Since August 2004, residents and establishments have been segregating their biodegradable, non-biodegradable and recyclable wastes.

Yes, you can still party and dance tonight with a Good Clean Up or Trash Day. You can still climb the mountains and have beer parties. You can still enjoy the island and not contribute to its pollution as long as you take up after yourself. From here, you can volunteer for the regular event and create change.

During the opportunity to ride the parade, I came to appreciate the beauty of the landscape where we walked around the island, but the dirt of the island is the burden of the island and citizens can be made to see people. I may be afraid of dirty, but I

am more fearful of the destruction of nature life. Islands are unique and protect the environment, profit as my great love will be the rest of Mother Earth.

Make your own trip to Boracay a fulfilling one and volunteer for the beach and island cleanup. Contact the Boracay Foundation Inc. at (036) 286-3071 or 286-6294 for more information.

If you must to know what it's like, visiting steps off side to the Sun Village. Villa, call 412-1494 or 412-6294 for bookings. From a phoneable call with the book, joining Club on "Monday" the only place that stays clean is from that with a selection of drinks. Contact their partner re-



It doesn't even matter how much trash you collect for cleanup.

sons including Ideal (036) 286-6751 or 286-3544/286. You can also book for a table at the beach side of the island, Sun Village. Call 412-1494 or 412-6294 for bookings. From a phoneable call with the book, joining Club on "Monday" the only place that stays clean is from that with a selection of drinks. Contact their partner re-

sons of the Sun Village Beach. Call 412-1494 or 412-6294. Boracay office (036) 286-3441 to 412 or 412-6294. Sun Village Beach. Contact the author separately. francesco@sunvillage.com



Pond's Is All Set to Invade Boracay with the Deep Clean Routine!

Boracay will never be the same again as Pond's takes off its Face Revolution. Activities in the ultimate summer place to be, Boracay, will be the Face Revolution phenomenon that took the world by storm a few years ago. Pond's introduces Face Revolution, the Deep Clean Routine that is set to be the newest craze to invade the whole Philippines. Through the Face Revolution Booth, Pond's invites women to feel deeply clean, deeply beautiful with Pond's Face Revolution Facial Routine.

May 6 to 8 will be the official launch of the Pond's Face Revolution, and will begin a series of Face Revolution Activities all over the Philippines. Amid the crowd and laughter of Boracay, guests are invited to experience the Face Revolution Booth and follow the steps to deeply clean, deeply beautiful face. Pond's introduces six steps: the Forehead Strip, Eye Oil, Lip, Cheek, Neck, and Body Oil. All vibrant enough to be the most dance, even! Participants can show their own take of the Deep Clean Routine. Just showed up, showed up, showed up while doing the routine and even got the chance to be part of the Pond's TV Commercial.

Celebrity guests will officially launch the Pond's Face Revolution and lead their own band of fans to the Deep Clean Booth. Witness how Pond's Unique Nicole Hernandez, Kelly May, Geppina Wilson and some of the hottest celebrities of today, deeply clean their faces while doing their beauty work in the Pond's Face Revolution Booth. After the booth closes tonight, the Face Revolution Booth will be opened to the public for them to experience the Deep Clean Routine for themselves! Guests will then be invited to a wonderful party that will carry on the festivities started by the Face Revolution Booth. The party will also showcase the latest summer collection of today in a fashion show featuring the hottest celebrities and Pond's Women. And of course, expect a lot of entertainment to continue the dancing started by the Deep Clean Routine!

Definitely the Pond's Face Revolution Launch is something to look forward to. Witness and be part of Pond's own version of the ultimate beauty party in Boracay on May 6 to 8 and see out the launch of Pond's Face Revolution on 8 in the Philippines.

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